

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7508

Petition of Georgia Mountain Community Wind, LLC,)
for a Certificate of Public Good, pursuant to 30 V.S.A.)
Section 248, authorizing the construction and operation)
of a 5-wind turbine electric generation facility, with)
associated electric and interconnection facilities, on)
Georgia Mountain in the Towns of Milton and Georgia,)
Vermont, to be known as the "Georgia Mountain)
Community Wind Project")

Order entered: 12/9/2011

ORDER RE: POST-CPG COMPLIANCE FILINGS

On June 11, 2010, the Public Service Board ("Board") issued a Certificate of Public Good ("CPG") authorizing the construction of a wind generation facility by Georgia Mountain Community Wind, LLC ("GMCW"). The CPG required several additional filings by GMCW. In this Order we approve several post-CPG compliance filings.

Transportation Plan

Pursuant to Condition 6 of the CPG:

GMCW shall file a Transportation Plan for Board review and approval. The Transportation Plan shall incorporate: (a) provisions for emergency vehicle passage; (b) specific transportation plans with Milton officials, including scheduling for oversized loads; and (c) plans for employing sheriffs or other trained traffic-control personnel to manage traffic flow, as necessary, during the delivery of oversized loads. The Project shall not utilize North Road for access to the Project site. GMCW shall not exceed the turbine manufacturers' or the Milton Fire Department's limitations for road gradients.

On June 6, 2011, GMCW submitted a proposed Transportation Plan. No party filed comments on the Transportation Plan.

We approve the June 6 Transportation Plan and conclude that Condition 6 of the CPG has been met.

Final Design Plans

Pursuant to Condition 4 of the CPG, "GMCW shall file for Board approval design-detail plans for major project components, including access roads, collector lines, turbines, and the step-up substation."

On October 12, 2011, GMCW submitted design-detail plans that address each of the components listed above. On October 27, 2011, the Board issued a memorandum requiring additional information regarding the October 12 filing. GMCW submitted additional information on November 4, 2011.

On November 22, 2011, the Landowner Intervenor¹ filed comments on the October 12 design-detail plans.² The Landowner Intervenor objects to the Board granting GMCW permission to begin construction of the access road in order to meet funding deadlines as GMCW has delayed certain aspects of the proceedings over the past year.

On November 22, 2011, GMCW filed a letter stating that the timing of the final approvals for the Project is important to the petitioner "and the general good of the state."

The design-detail plans indicate that GMCW intends to install a switch, meter, breaker, and pad-mounted transformer near North Road. GMCW proposes to install these devices on individual poles rather than within a substation. GMCW asserts that "this approach alleviates the need to clear an area of land, install a sub surface grounding grid, add impervious surfaces and equipment and encompass the facilities with a security fence. This approach is less intrusive to the environment and is more economical."³ GMCW does not propose installing any aesthetic

1. The Landowner Intervenor consists of Scott and Melodie McLane, Daniel and Tina FitzGerald, Jane and Heidi FitzGerald, George and Kenneth Wimble, Matt and Kim Parisi, Kevin and Cindy Cook, and Kenneth and Virginia Mongeon.

2. In addition, the Landowner Intervenor filed a comment on the Blasting Plan submitted with GMCW's October 12 filing. The Board had approved the Blasting Plan in an April 11, 2011, Order. The Landowner Intervenor states that there is a discrepancy between the Blasting Plan filed on October 12 and prior representations made by GMCW regarding notice under the Blasting Plan. In response to the Landowner Intervenor's letter, GMCW states that it will provide notice of blasting to all parties to this Docket, in addition to all property owners within a one-half-mile radius.

3. Letter of November 4, 2011, from Kimberly Hayden, Esq., on behalf of GMCW, to Susan M. Hudson, Clerk of the Board, at 1.

mitigation associated with these structures, and no party has requested that such mitigation be installed; however, given the proximity of these structures to North Road, we will hold a site visit after construction of these structures and retain authority to require aesthetic mitigation, if necessary. GMCW shall inform the Board within 30 days of completing construction of the structures.

The October 12 filing and November 4 response to Board questions provides sufficient detail regarding the location and design of the project components. No party has filed particular objections to the design-detail plans themselves. We approve the October 12 final design plans and conclude that Condition 4 of the CPG has been met.

Impacts to Headwater Resources

Pursuant to Condition 5 of the CPG:

When filing final design plans, GMCW shall identify how the design and construction of the Project will ensure that there will be no adverse impact to headwater resources. The Board's review of the final design plans will include consideration of how the project design and construction specifications avoid adverse impacts to headwater resources. In addition, GMCW must demonstrate that, to the extent possible, the transmission line and clearing zone are located within the pre-existing VASA [Vermont All Terrain Vehicle Sportsman's Association] trail corridor. If GMCW cannot locate the transmission line and clearing zone within the corridor, it must explain why it cannot meet this requirement.

GMCW's October 12 filing provides information regarding the impact of the Project design and construction activities on headwater resources. Additionally, GMCW states that the transmission line and associated clearing follow the VASA trail to the extent possible.

No party filed comments regarding the headwaters issue.

We conclude that the October 12 filing demonstrates that Condition 5 of the CPG has been met.

System Impact Study

In the June 11 Order we stated that:

prior to construction GMCW shall submit to the Board, parties, and [Central Vermont Public Service Corporation "CVPS"], the final SIS for a determination by the Board regarding whether the SIS fully satisfies any remaining issues associated with system stability and reliability. Parties and CVPS shall have the opportunity to comment on the SIS and any required upgrades at that time.

On July 26, 2011, GMCW filed the system impact study.

No party filed comments on the system impact study.

The Board has concluded that no additional action is required with respect to system stability and reliability.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 9th day of December, 2011.

<u>s/ James Volz</u>)	
)	
)	PUBLIC SERVICE
<u>s/ David C. Coen</u>)	
)	BOARD
)	
<u>s/ John D. Burke</u>)	OF VERMONT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: December 9, 2011

ATTEST: s/ Susan M. Hudson

Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)